

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:
  - 2 (a) generating a request for data to be scanned for viruses utilizing a scanning  
3 interface;
  - 4 (b) sending the request to scan data to a plurality of scanning engines utilizing an  
5 engine interface application control module coupled between the scanning  
6 interface and the scanning engines, the request being adapted for prompting  
7 the scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating  
8 a virus;
  - 9 (c) receiving the events utilizing an event processor module coupled to the  
10 scanning engines and the engine interface application control module for  
11 processing the events; and
  - 12 (d) transmitting the processed events to the engine interface application control  
13 module for being monitored by the scanning interface.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the engine interface application  
2 control module and the event processor module reside on a gateway.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the scanning interface  
2 automatically generates the request in response to the receipt of data at the  
3 gateway.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the scanning interface includes a  
2 graphical user interface for allowing a user to manually generate the request.
- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the engine interface application  
2 control module translates the requests for each of the scanning engines.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the event processor module  
2 translates the events from each of the scanning engines into a single format.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the translated events are  
2 transmitted to the scanning interface for outputting the event.

1 8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the scanning engines are  
2 proprietary scanning engines.

1 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the scanning engines are  
2 incompatible scanning engines.

1 10. A computer program product for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning  
2 engines, comprising:  
3 (a) computer code for generating a request for data to be scanned for viruses  
4 utilizing a scanning interface;  
5 (b) computer code for sending the request to scan data to a plurality of scanning  
6 engines utilizing an engine interface application control module coupled  
7 between the scanning interface and the scanning engines, the request being  
8 adapted for prompting the scanning engines to scan the data and respond  
9 with events upon locating a virus;  
10 (c) computer code for receiving the events utilizing an event processor module  
11 coupled to the scanning engines and the engine interface application control  
12 module for processing the events; and  
13 (d) computer code for transmitting the processed events to the engine interface  
14 application control module for being monitored by the scanning interface.

1 11. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the engine  
2 interface application control module and the event processor module reside  
3 on a gateway.

- 1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the scanning  
2 interface automatically generates the request in response to the receipt of data  
3 at the gateway.
- 1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the scanning  
2 interface includes a graphical user interface for allowing a user to manually  
3 generate the request.
- 1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the engine  
2 interface application control module translates the requests for each of the  
3 scanning engines.
- 1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the event  
2 processor module translates the events from each of the scanning engines  
3 into a single format.
- 1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the translated  
2 events are transmitted to the scanning interface for outputting the event.
- 1 17. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the scanning  
2 engines are proprietary scanning engines.
- 1 18. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the scanning  
2 engines are incompatible scanning engines.
- 1 19. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the events  
2 include the identification of at least one of unwanted content, viruses and  
3 malicious code.
- 1 20. A system for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

- 2 (a) a scanning interface for generating a request for data to be scanned for  
3 viruses;
- 4 (b) an engine interface application control module coupled between the scanning  
5 interface and a plurality of scanning engines for sending the request to scan  
6 data to the scanning engines, the request being adapted for prompting the  
7 scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a  
8 virus; and
- 9 (c) an event processor module coupled to the scanning engines and the engine  
10 interface application control module for receiving the events and processing  
11 the events;
- 12 (d) wherein the processed events are outputted by the scanning interface.

- 1 21. A method for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:  
2 (a) means for generating a request for data to be scanned for viruses;  
3 (b) means for sending the request to scan data to the scanning engines, the  
4 requests being adapted for prompting the scanning engines to scan the data  
5 and respond with events upon locating a virus; and  
6 (c) means for receiving the events and processing the events.

- 1 22. A method for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:  
2 (a) receiving data at a gateway;  
3 (b) generating a request for the data to be scanned for viruses in response to the  
4 receipt of data at the gateway utilizing a scanning interface;  
5 (c) translating the request utilizing an engine interface application control  
6 module coupled between the scanning interface and a plurality of scanning  
7 engines;  
8 (d) sending the translated request to the scanning engines utilizing the engine  
9 interface application control module, the request being adapted for prompting  
10 the scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating  
11 a virus;

- 12 (e) receiving the events utilizing an event processor module coupled to the
- 13 scanning engines and the engine interface application control module;
- 14 (f) checking an integrity of the events received utilizing the event processor
- 15 module;
- 16 (g) translating the events into a common format utilizing the event processor
- 17 module if the events pass the integrity check;
- 18 (h) transmitting the translated events to the engine interface application control
- 19 module; and
- 20 (i) outputting the translated events utilizing the scanning interface.